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Subject: [External] Weekly Briefing: Our rogue General Assembly returns to Raleigh for yet another rump session

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NC POLICY WATCH

Stories & voices
that **matter.**

Weekly Briefing:

Our rogue General Assembly returns to Raleigh for yet another rump session Why the legislature now operates this way and why it's a big problem

By [Rob Schofield](#)

The North Carolina General Assembly (or, at least, a goodly portion of it) returned to town last night. Nearly four months after having passed a new state budget—the event that used to signal the conclusion of an annual legislative session—lawmakers are back yet again.

The top agenda item this time for our “part-time” lawmakers: to override Governor Cooper’s veto of [a bill to alter state elections passed during their last cameo appearance in the state capital](#). At least, that’s what we think the plan is. No one knows for sure. The move comes just days after legislative leaders had stated publicly that no such action would be taken until at least January of 2018.

This makes roughly a half dozen times this year that lawmakers have convened, departed and returned. Though legislative leaders have wised up (at least from a P.R. perspective) and stopped always referring to their serial returns to Jones Street, as “special sessions,” (there were at least five of such sessions in 2016—remember the HB2 session and the pre-holidays session to undermine Roy Cooper?) that is, effectively, what’s been going on with great regularity for several years. Rather than coming to Raleigh for a single annual session and then returning upon its conclusion to their homes, jobs and families as was long the tradition in the state, lawmakers—especially since Republicans assumed control back in 2011—now operate under a new model.

In the new system, the General Assembly is essentially always subject to being called into and out of session in short order depending on the political wants and whims of a handful of powerful leaders—most notably Senate President *Pro Tem* Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore. Some special sessions have even been called, for tactical reasons, with just a few hours’ notice and while legislators were already in Raleigh. [\[Read more...\]](#)

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By John Cole



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- NC Senate votes to override election law veto
[WRAL.com](#)
- House considers N Carolina governor's veto of election bill
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Daily Editorials:

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